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Moral and Material Withholding is a Proper Response

Mildred Loomis

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THE GREEN

FOR HOMESTEADERS, ON-TO-THE-LANDERS,
AND DO-IT-YOURSELFERS



REVOLUTION

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Moral And Material Withholding Action Is A Proper Response

In 1966 more people are going to see that so-called modern progress cannot proceed on and on indefinitely—that it is all now of an unmistakably self-destructive character even if world peace could be achieved and continue. They see the true nature of “progress.” They say the proper thing to do is to pull out of the main current in any possible way at the first opportunity. Almost anyone could do so and become a meaningful non-participant and non-contributor—an individual secessionist—if conscience, personal responsibility and the will to survive are strong enough to direct him to become such.

The word “civilization” means literally the citification of our ways of living. De-ruralization of America hasn’t much farther to go. The flow of farm people into the towns and cities, and the extension of citified living out into the rural areas has all but spelled finis to a rural culture. To the exponents of “modern progress” a more complete de-ruralization of American life is all to the good. But decentralist-secessionists maintain that the steady erosion of people off the land in the direction of urban jobs, relief payments and guaranteed incomes constitutes a humanly destructive trend.

Return to the Land
Tax resistance alone, though

Early Preparation For Tomatoes

By Elsie Neie
Alpine, Texas

As we enter another year, I have planned my 1966 organic garden, and already planted my Elephant Garlic, and am preparing some hills to set out tomato plants before very long. I dig holes two feet deep and two feet across and line them with corn cobs. They are like a sponge and absorb and hold water. Then I fill the hole with very rich dirt; I have seen tomatoes grow in a cow lot and don’t think the soil can be too rich for them.

When I set the plants in I mulch them with leaves and hay, and then cover with plastic mulching material. I never have to water them, and much larger (continued on page 4)

very commendable in anyone who practices it, does not extend a person’s secessionism to the fullest exercise of a non-participation philosophy. Thorough-going non-participation involves a deliberate separation from city-type employment and residence, and a return to the land. Anyone following an employment-money-income pattern is confronted with the necessity of accounting to the government for that income and payment of taxes on it. On the land, the primary production of a large share of one’s living requirements can be done directly.

Each contributor to the many questionable governmental projects must accept personal responsibility in one measure or another for whatever results from them. The questions that each one should answer are: “Do you or don’t you give a damn about what is done with the tax dollars collected from you? Do you care what the final effect of your thoughtless participation in scores of luny social practices must eventually be?”

The recommendation that people individually secede from what currently goes on in the modern complex is not made primarily to encourage a widely adopted practice of tax resistance, nor as an avenue of *near total pacifism*. Neither is the philosophy of deliberately contrived personal non-participation set forth as some kind of messianic “Save America,” “Save Civilization” eleventh hour appeal. Only a few, and they chiefly in the rationalist-humanist element in society, could ever reasonably be expected to adopt the course recommended.

Advanced “Save” Themselves

But withdrawing so far as possible from modern complex employment, a turning away from cities and a return to the land has its rationale none the less. Less complicated, more independent and self-subsistent living could mean the “saving” of quite a large number of individuals, who, because of generally advanced mental and moral development, are about the only element in the entire population now who would really be fit to survive any general catastrophe—which the governing forces have left little undone to bring about.

We were joined by Floridians Maybelle Brooks (St. Petersburg); Luke Carpenter, (Green Valley School, Orange City); and (from Melbourne Village), Bill Newcomb, Marian Van Atta and Charles Haines for some of the sessions.

Living Areas Examined

In six two-hour sessions, this group gave careful attention to six basic, universal aspects of living:

The Anthropic Problem—how shall things be held or owned, so that all persons have maximum freedom, and so that their human potential can be fulfilled?

The Occupational Problem—how shall human beings spend their time, in order that their basic, peculiar nature shall grow and develop?

The Production and Distribution Problems—how shall goods (continued on page 4)

A Withholding Action—

Low Income Plus Homesteading Equals High Standard Of Living

By Rose Smart

Part II

The clothing industry in this country is big business, being third or fourth in terms of size (if we put “the military” first, where it belongs in terms of dollars and man-hours spent).

If the clothing industry depended upon the Smarts and people like us, it would fold. I use the sewing machine and Good Will (thrift or second-hand stores). I have found a mill and source of fabrics that is a treat to even my New York friends who visit. Recently I made car seat covers for both seats of our car for less than five dollars. A friend near Philadelphia insists that “her” Good Will is so much better than “my” Good Will that it would pay me to visit her and shop there. This I have learned about Good Wills: the principle of not buying on impulse applies there, too. What bargain is there in bringing home six skirts at 35c if just two are needed? Good Will is a source of toys if one applies a little soap and paint to them. It is a source of household items, too, of course.

Homemade Furniture

You can get your furniture at Good Will, or better, build it yourself. A half piece of plywood cut into a circle, plus four black iron legs, gave us a good-looking table for less than \$10. I made a sofa and two easy chairs of black iron and Naugahyde-covered foam rubber (similar to ones selling for \$125 each at that

time) for less than \$50 apiece. Our desk is of plywood over old file cabinets. Beds or couches can be made easily from plywood and foam rubber. If you learn to do your own slipcovering or upholstering and your own refinishing and painting, having a pleasant environment inside your homestead home is more a matter of taste than dollars.

Entertainment

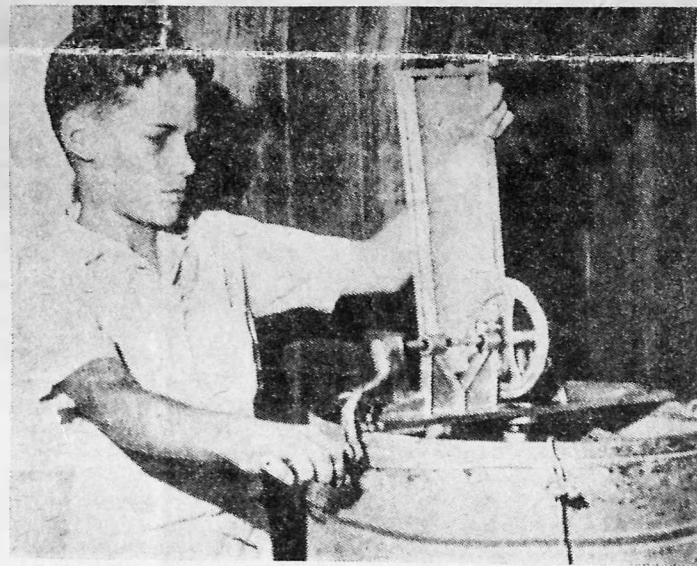
One dollar saving by-product of homesteading is our change in entertainment habits. When we had two incomes and no children, we enjoyed going to plays, movies, symphonies and the ballet. Now, in our rural environment, we rarely go to town except for the library. Nearby colleges offer low-cost season tickets to top-notch cultural evenings, however, if we were to make the effort to go. We tend to make our own entertainment now, primarily by having people to dinner or parties or for

week-long visits. Some of them bring musical instruments; some teach us rounds or folk ballads. We have a record collection but somehow don’t use it as much as we did in the city. Country living has its own impact on the senses, leaving us free of the need to titilate them commercially.

This evening David, ten years, called us all to come and see the winter sun setting behind a huge, partially dismantled barn on the hill across the road. The massive, hand-hewn timbers stood out cathedral-like against a patch of pewter sky at the horizon. Above it black clouds hung in a dense flat layer. And above that in a serene sky shone a brilliant planet tagged by a tiny star.

Daddy was here to see it and to enjoy it with his family because he does not “need” to spend his evenings away in order to be financially “successful.” On our homestead we have withdrawn from that rat-race.

Young Beekeeper Is In Business



EUGENE WILLIAMS, ready here to extract the handiwork of the bees, is skilled in the many operations needed to get the honey as well as market it attractively.

One of man’s oldest agriculture enterprises still holds economic possibilities and a great deal of fascination. Eugene Williams, of Romney, W. Va., has proven this since he became interested in beekeeping while visiting an uncle. He has become a miniature

expert apiarist and has a growing bank account.

The honeybee tickles the imagination of almost everyone. However, it is unusual for a youngster of 12 years to show such a growing interest in the technical and economic aspects of beekeeping.

Starting with nine stands in March, 1963, Eugene’s business has grown to 19 producing hives. He plans an even greater expansion, hoping for a total of perhaps 40 stands in another year.

Beekeeping on a commercial basis is not an easy job. Subscribing to several bee journals and building a growing library on the subject of beekeeping has helped him meet the challenge of good management and economics.

This has not been a good year for bees. Yet, from 19 hives he will harvest over 900 lbs. of honey. The sale of honey is not the only source of income from the honeybee. Orchard owners in the Hampshire County area rent stands of bees each year to assure fertilization of fruit bloom. This practice makes an additional income for the beekeeper in that area.

The skeptic may say that this (continued on page 3)

A Good Adventure: Florida Seminar and State Meeting

Six School of Living members from the north braved the sudden, and first real, storm of the winter season to attend the Good Life (and End All War) Seminar in Melbourne Village, Fla., Jan. 27-28, and arrived in a shivering cold spell. We did manage one hour’s session outdoors in the welcome sun, and otherwise found that cheery open fires, diligent search and close association generated a warmth we will long remember.

Perceptive Jo Moesel from Scarsdale, N. Y.; James I. Smith, who has been part of many of our groups, from New Hope, Pa.; Ernst Tiessen, a thoughtful young newcomer from Cleveland and Toronto; and genial Don and Doris Abbott from Marine City, Mich., with Mildred Loomis (they stopped by Lane’s End to pick her up), were from the north.